



## City of Scottsdale PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### APPROVED SUMMARY MINUTES Work Study Session

4:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2011  
McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center  
15525 N. Thompson Peak Parkway, Scottsdale, AZ

**Present:**

Chair Stan Koczka  
Commissioner Robert Frost

Commissioner Jeanne Alspaugh  
Commissioner Anne Wurth

**Absent:**

Vice Chair Harry Schlegelmilch  
Commissioner James Duchene

Commissioner Gene Dafoe

**Staff Present:**

Jan Cameron  
Tim Barnard  
Terry Erickson  
Hugh McGill

Scott Anderson  
Mike Ruggiero  
Lorelei Oien

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Koczka called the Work Study Session to order at 4:00 p.m. at McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatic Center.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Koczka confirmed members present as stated above.

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Chair Koczka also acknowledged that the agenda contained a typographical error in the agenda item numbering and that the only item on the work study agenda was the Chaparral Park Off Leash Area update.

3. INFORMATION UPDATE ON BENCHMARKING AND STAFF RESEARCH FOR THE CHAPARRAL PARK OFF LEASH AREA

Scott Anderson, Recreation Supervisor, provided an update on the public survey for the Chaparral Park Off Lease Area. The survey gathered information such as frequency of usage, where users resided, the importance to users of the dogs having county care and control licenses, annual fees users would consider reasonable and willing to pay, and voluntary donation amounts they'd be likely to make. Mr. Anderson also provided a recap of the successful Paws in the Park event that was held at Chaparral on April 30, 2011.

In response to a request made by the Commission on April 6, 2011, Mr. Anderson provided several suggestions as to how a fee system could be implemented and the costs associated with doing so.

Mr. Barnard presented information gathered from other cities and states regarding how they're handling their dog parks/fees.

The presentation was followed by a discussion by the Commissioners, including the following:

- ▶ In the current budgetary situation, the Commission and staff have been looking for ways to maintain Scottsdale's recreation amenities and programs.
- ▶ The difficulty is determining what to charge since there is no way to tell how many people are using the park, and how many times they're using it. Asking people what they want to pay (versus what they're willing to pay) is difficult since they've been using it for free since its opening. Also, it needs to be determined if the cost recovery goal is 100%, or partial cost recovery.
- ▶ A preference for approaching a solution by breaking it down into pieces, starting with what benefits the community the most, which would be exploring sponsorships.
- ▶ Creating a memorial wall for pets.
- ▶ Consideration be made for daily and/or weekly passes so that out of town visitors may take advantage of the off leash park.
- ▶ Also to be taken into consideration is that occasionally there can be dog behavior issues, and there are two other dog facilities within the city, although they are not as accessible or as widely used.
- ▶ Emphasize the vaccination, spay and neuter requirement aspect.

Citizen comments:

Ms. Ginny Harris, Scottsdale resident, inquired as to the projected estimated revenue for charging a fee and stated that she would be willing to pay a fee or make a donation.

Mr. Ralph Mueller, Scottsdale resident, inquired as to the monthly number of users and if there was any way to figure out how many of those were repeat visitors. Mr. Barnard answered that there were from 28,000 to 30,000 visits per month and that at this time the tracking was done with an infra-red beam which counted numbers only. In addition to providing a level of security, a swipe card allows tracking by individual.

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Ms. Ellen Cherrill, Scottsdale resident, inquired as to the consequences of keeping things as they are, such as reduced hours, etc. Commissioner Frost responded that what motivated the Commission to look at the possibility of charging dog park fees was that the previously free after school programs were now charging a \$55 per month fee. Chair Koczka added that all amenities in parks and recreation were being tasked to help pay for themselves, such as an increase in pool fees, sports field's usage fees, and park rental fees.

The Commission directed staff to pursue sponsorship opportunities, including having a presentation ready for possible sponsorship meetings, followed by investigating how to administer a donation program. The Commission requested this information be brought back before them in one month.

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorelei Oien  
Administrative Secretary

Meets established criteria,  
Janice M. Cameron  
Director, Parks and Recreation

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